(d) The following measures have been taken to meet power shortages in Rajasthan:

- The State has been allocated 1936 MW to 2108 MW of firm power from central generating stations in the Northern Region, power from the Eastern Region in lieu of Tala power as well as unallocated power from Central Generating Stations (CGSs) in Northern Region and Eastern Region during different time slots of the day.
- In the Eleventh Plan, 1790 MW capacity is proposed to be added in the State sector. In addition, the State will have share in the central sector projects programmed to be commissioned during the Eleventh Plan subject to signing of power purchase agreement.

(e) For mitigating power shortages, capacity addition is mainly required in the State sector keeping in view the growth in demand for power in the State. Ministry of Power does not provide any direct assistance for State sector power generation projects. However, Power Finance Corporation has sanctioned loan aggregating to Rs. 4109 crores and disbursed Rs. 1149 crores for generation projects in Rajasthan during the last 3 years.

(f) and (g) In terms of the Electricity Act, 2003, techno-economic clearance (TEC) of Central Electricity Authority (CEA) is not required for thermal power projects. Any generating company can set up thermal power plants if it complies with the technical standards relating to connectivity with grid. No proposals regarding hydro-electric power projects in respect of Rajasthan State are pending in CEA for techno-economic concurrence.

Setting up of High Court Bench at Dharamsala

*545. SHRI SURESH BHARDWAJ: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposal from State Government of Himachal Pradesh to establish a Bench of High Court of Himachal Pradesh at Dharamsala;

(b) if so, the action taken thereon; and

(c) if not, whether Government will favourably pursue the proposal as and when the same is received?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Cases pending in Supreme Court

*546. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases pending in the Supreme Court as on 31st March, 2007;

(b) what is their State-wise break-up;

(c) what is the year-wise pendency for the last ten years; and

(d) whether any special steps are proposed to be taken to liquidate this pendency like late sittings introduced in Vadodara and Ahmedabad districts of Gujarat since November 2006?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) As per information available there are 41581 cases pending in the Supreme Court at the end of March, 2007.

(b) and (c) Information has been called for from the Supreme Court and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(d) It is for the Hon'ble Supreme Court to decide on its hours of sitting for disposing cases before it.

NTPC's Power Project in Sri Lanka

*547. DR.K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Power Finance Corporation Limited has proposed to finance NTPC's Power Project in Sri Lanka;

(b) if so, what is the project cost and the stage of the project; and